

June 7, 1962

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BUNDY
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Chronology of Development of U. S. Policy
with Respect to Outer Space.

In accordance with the request from your office, there is attached a paper summarizing the development of our policy positions with respect to outer space, including inter-Departmental consultations relating to the development of decisions on these matters within the Government. There is also appended to the paper (Annex C) a detailed chronology on the development within the Government of procedures for our registration of space launches with the United Nations.

In connection with the question of the registration of launchings, it will be noted from this paper that the first recorded decision that the United States should seek an international agreement to maintain a public record of satellite orbits was contained in NSC 5814/1, approved by the President on August 18, 1958, and subsequently confirmed by the President on January 26, 1960, in the approval of an NSC paper.

It will also be noted that the specific proposal on this subject, submitted to and subsequently adopted by the Sixteenth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, was discussed and cleared with the appropriate Government Departments as noted in paragraphs 22 and 23 of the attached paper. In connection with those paragraphs, the Department of Defense has commented as follows:

"During the policy developments described in paragraphs 22-24, the position of the Department of Defense was taken following consultation with all the Military Services through the channels normally used for such policy purposes. However, because certain programs are of necessity managed in an entirely separate structure, the normal staff processes did not disclose certain potential difficulties with the Registry proposal. These were subsequently

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discovered and made known by the Under Secretary of the Air Force who had not previously been aware of the proposal. To preclude a recurrence of such difficulties in connection with the staffing of actions relating to the Registry and related matters, the Under Secretary of the Air Force has been specifically designated as a point of contact and has been consulted fully in the development of Defense Department positions."

Procedures have also been established within the Department of State, as well as with the CIA, to assure that all individuals with a responsibility for space matters are kept fully informed and given an opportunity appropriately to participate in the development of policies and positions with respect to space.

The Department of State will, of course, be glad to furnish any additional information or amplification that may be desired.

/s/ William H. Brubeck

William H. Brubeck
Executive Secretary